KUDANSHI
空談師
篠房六郎
アフタヌーン
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空談師
KUDANSHI
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SHINOFUSA ROKURO
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アフタヌーンKC

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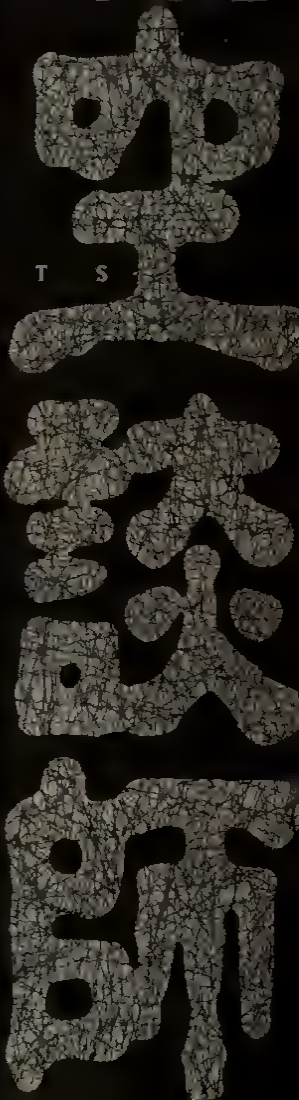
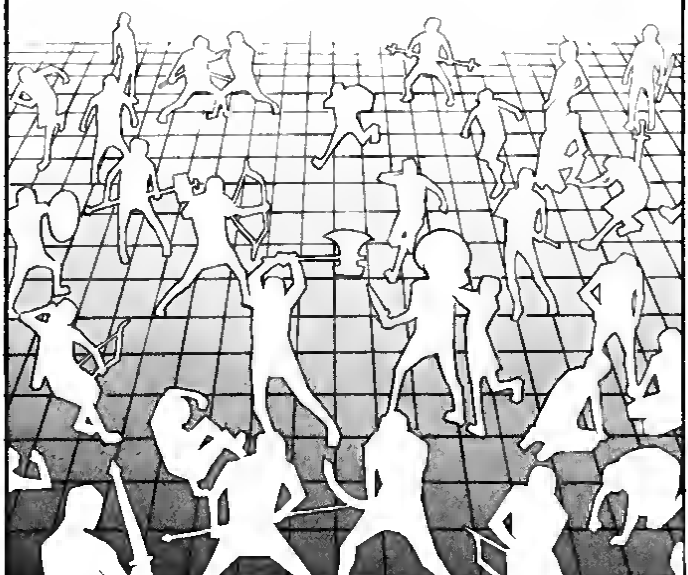


CONTENTS

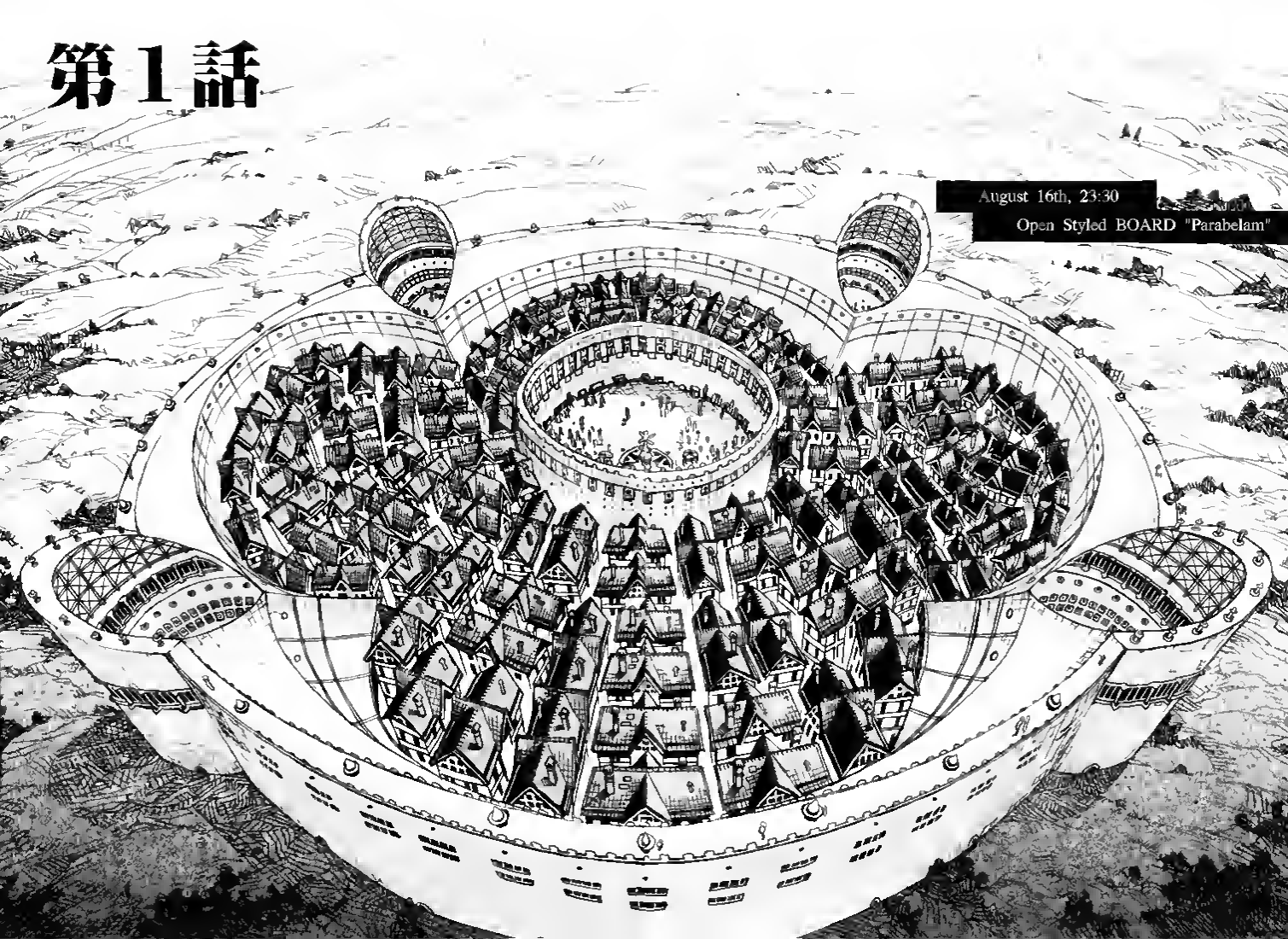
第1話……3
第2話……67
第3話……103
第4話……141
第5話……177

There is an online fantasy computer game known as "BOARD".

The creators of BOARD, a certain software company,
set the basic world and rules
But the people who actually run each BOARD are the various
contracted administrators (GMs), who have free control

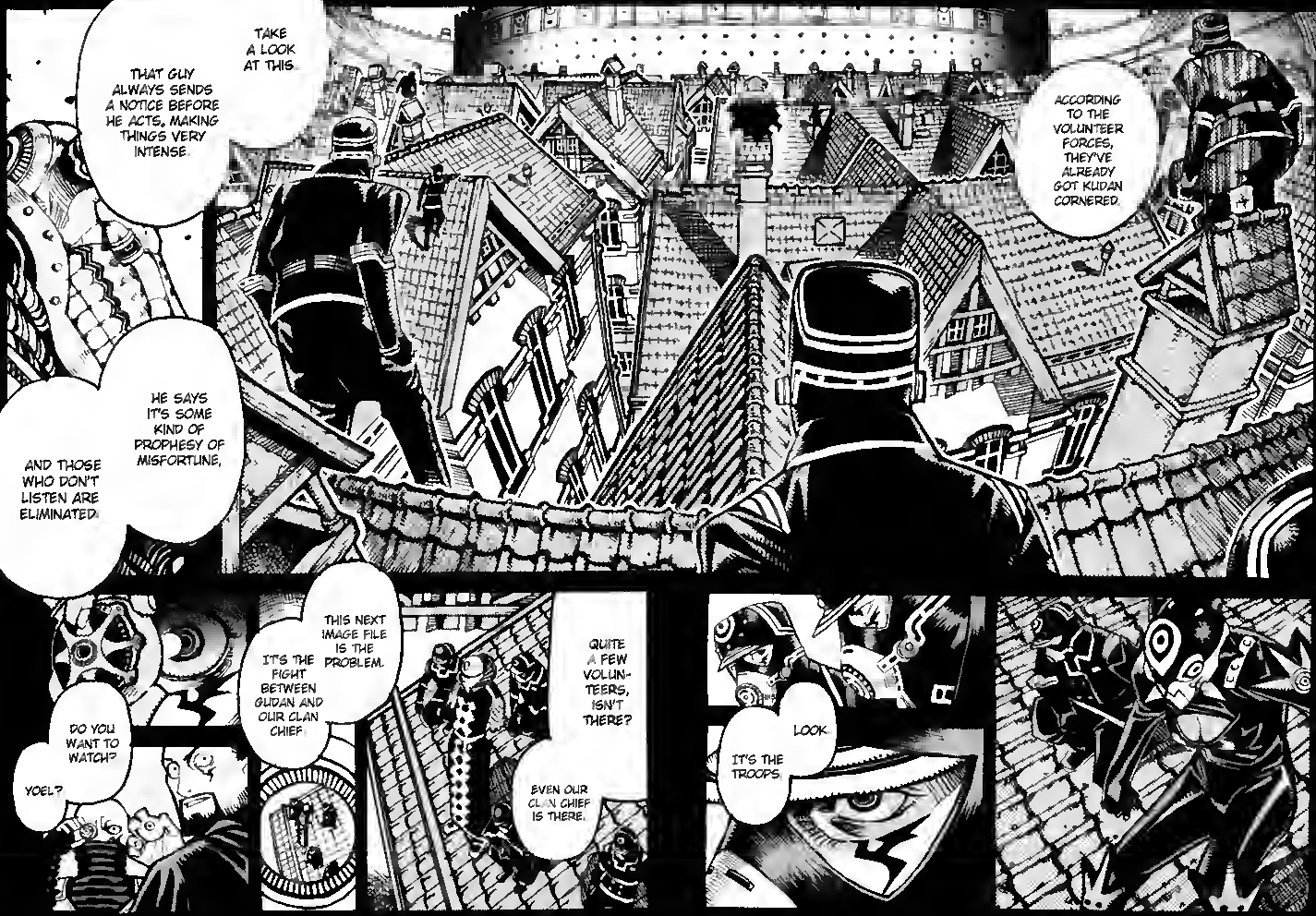


第1話



In ancient China, there was once a medicine man.
One day, he went into the mountains to collect herbs,
when suddenly out jumped a spirit with
the body of a bull and the head of a man.
It said its name was "Kudabe", and has been living
in the mountain since long ago.
It also warned that in three to five years, a plague
will sweep the land, which no herb or medicine is able to cure.
However, as long is people painted its image, anyone
who gazed upon the image will be saved from disaster.
Gutabi vanished without a trace after delivering its message.
Most people look upon this as a silly prank
by some bored individual, disregarding it with a laugh.

KUDAN IS COMING
KUDAN?
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT
THERE CAN'T REALLY BE THAT KIND OF THING
SOME GUY THAT LOOKS LIKE A BULL BRINGING WARNINGS OF A STORM.
STORM?
WELL, OF COURSE
THERE'S GOING TO BE A STORM AFTER ALL
I'M NOT SURE IS THIS GUY FAMOUS?
FAMOUS
HE SHOWS UP THE WHOLE ATMOSPHERE OF BOARD TURNS TENSE
OF COURSE. PARABELAM HAS ALREADY SENT PEOPLE TO DEAL WITH THAT GUY.

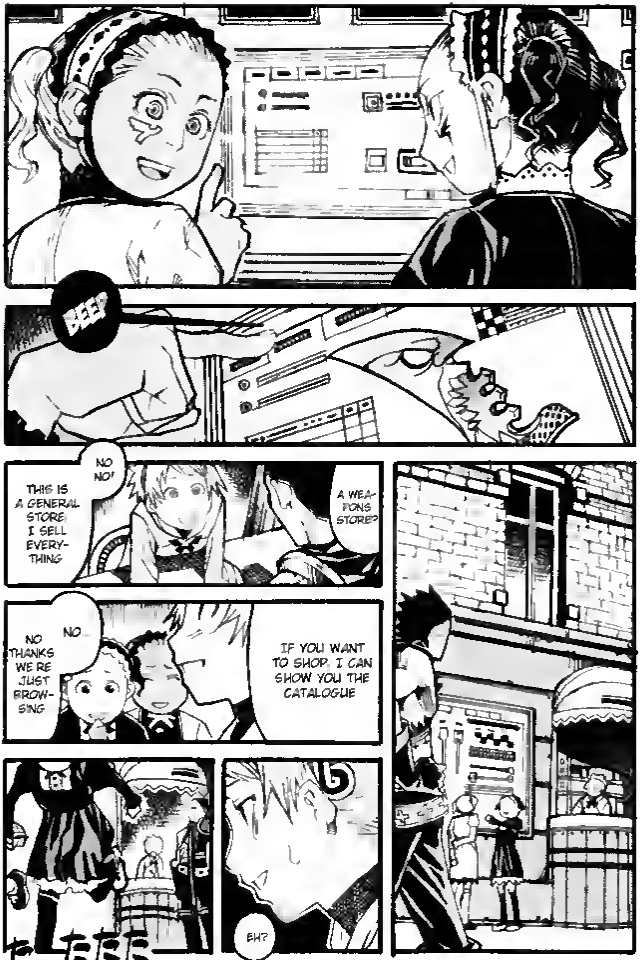

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
THAT GUY ALWAYS SENDS A NOTICE BEFORE HE ACTS, MAKING THINGS VERY INTENSE.
ACCORDING TO THE VOLUNTEER FORCES, THEY'VE ALREADY GOT KUDAN CORNERED.
HE SAYS IT'S SOME KIND OF PROPHESY OF MISFORTUNE,
AND THOSE WHO DON'T LISTEN ARE ELIMINATED.
THIS NEXT IMAGE FILE IS THE PROBLEM.
IT'S THE FIGHT BETWEEN GUDAN AND OUR CLAN CHIEF.
QUITE A FEW VOLUNTEERS, ISN'T THERE?
EVEN OUR CLAN CHIEF IS THERE.
DO YOU WANT TO WATCH?
YOEL?
LOOK.
IT'S THE TROOPS.

ぱりっ

NO.
NOT GOING TO WATCH?
NO-THING.
I FEEL LIKE GOING FOR A WALK.
WHAT'S WRONG?
I'VE NEVER MET HIM BEFORE.
IS HE ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
...FRIENDLY GUY, HUH?
BE CARE-FUL!
THE COMPETITION IS STARTING SOON.

WHERE EXACTLY DID YOU FIND YOEL?
WHAT.
IS HE SOME KIND OF NEWBIE OR SOMETHING?
WANDERING AROUND IN THAT PLACE WHEN THE COMPETITION IS ABOUT TO START? THAT CAN'T BE GOOD.
I MEAN HE'S BLACK CLAN, LIKE US RIGHT?
THE GUY WAS WANDERING AIMLESSLY IN THE WHITE CLAN'S TERRITORY, SO I CALLED OUT TO HIM.
INTE-REST?
THAT'S NOT FAIR.
BUY SOME BULLETS FOR ME WHY DON'T YOU?
CALL IT THE INTEREST FOR WHAT YOU OWE ME.
YOU REALLY SHOULD STOP HANGING AROUND WITH US GO
WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU'RE WHITE CLAN
HEY
YOU'RE GOING OUT TOO?
UM.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT

THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT.
AM I LOST AGAIN?
SO MANY OF THE WHITE CLAN OVER HERE
!
THAT WAS A BLACK CLAN MEMBER?


BEEP
NO NO!
THIS IS A GENERAL STORE I SELL EVERY-THING
A WEA-PONS STORE?
IF YOU WANT TO SHOP, I CAN SHOW YOU THE CATALOGUE
NO
NO THANKS WE'RE JUST BROW-SING
EH?
たたたた

WHY...
WHY IS IT THAT NO ONE WANTS TO BUY FROM ME?
"SNIFF"
I TRIED TO MAKE THEM AS APPEALING AS POSSIBLE
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY DESIGNS?
I'M SO BORED, CAN'T YOU JUST STAY AND CHAT?
WAIT WAIT WAIT WAIT WAIT~
WELL THEN I SHOULD GO TOO
LET'S GO WANDER AROUND TOGETHER!
MR. CUSTOMER, THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME HERE, RIGHT? YOU SHOULD TAKE IN THE SIGHTS
YOU'RE NEW HERE AS WELL RIGHT?
I CAN TELL BY YOUR FACE!
YOU TOO
OKAY?

AS A SHOPKEEP I'M VERY USED TO DEALING WITH PEOPLE THOUGH
I CAN TELL WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE JUST BY INTUITION. LET'S SEE
MR CUSTOMER, YOU'RE TRYING TO HIDE YOUR IDENTITY?
HM?
!?
WAIT UP!
YOU HEART-LESS OAF!
AH!
OH
IT'S YOU...
?
NO
I UH...
HOW ABOUT A MASK? VERY CHEAP!
I'M A GENERAL STORE SHOPKEEP I SELL EVERYTHING!
ARE YOU HERE TO SHOP?
AND YOU...
I'M HERE TO BUY SOME-THING
ISN'T THIS A WHITE CLAN TERRITORY...?
BEST NOT TO WANDER AROUND HERE...
!
AND IT'S EQUIPED WITH SPECIAL ABILITIES
YOU CAN CHECK THE INFO OF THE PERSON YOU'RE LOOKING AT...
MASK?

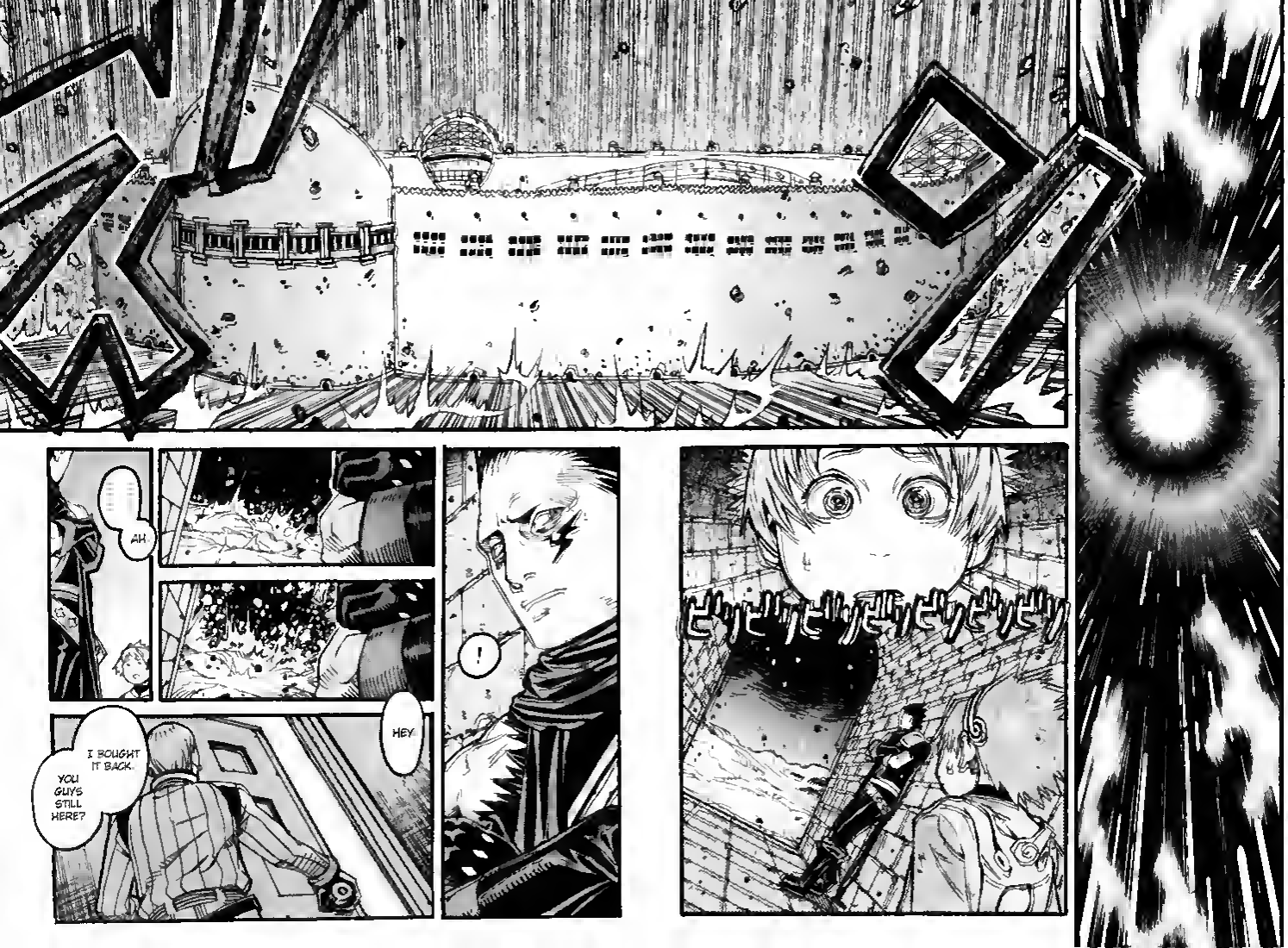
EVEN YOU MR CUSTOMER
?
WHAT'S WRONG??

Note PK stands for Player Killer

WHY?
WHY IS IT THAT EVERYONE IS SO CALM ABOUT IT?
ALL OF THE PC'S IN BLACK ARE PK'S!
WHY HAVEN'T I NOTICED THIS?
WHERE EXACTLY IN BOARD AM I?
WHERE IS THIS
ABOUT 10 MINUTES LEFT
IF YOU WANT TO GO TO THE BATHROOM, DO IT NOW
TIME?

MMM
I HOPE WE WIN TODAY
THE COMPE-TITION
IS STARTING SOON?
5 MINUTES LEFT
NO TIME NOW
アアアアア
WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING?
ACTING LIKE AN IDIOT
KUDAN?
HAVE YOU HEARD THE RUMORS OF KUDAN APPEARING?
YEAH
IT'S A SIGN OF MISFOR-TUNE
QUICKLY.
HURRY.
GOTTA GO
GO SOMEWHERE WITHOUT ANY PK'S!
OF COURSE, NOT LONG NOW. PARABELAM WILL BE IN QUITE A MESS

3 MINUTES LEFT
HE'S LATE
2
1
AH, DOUBT HE'LL MAKE IT
10 SECONDS

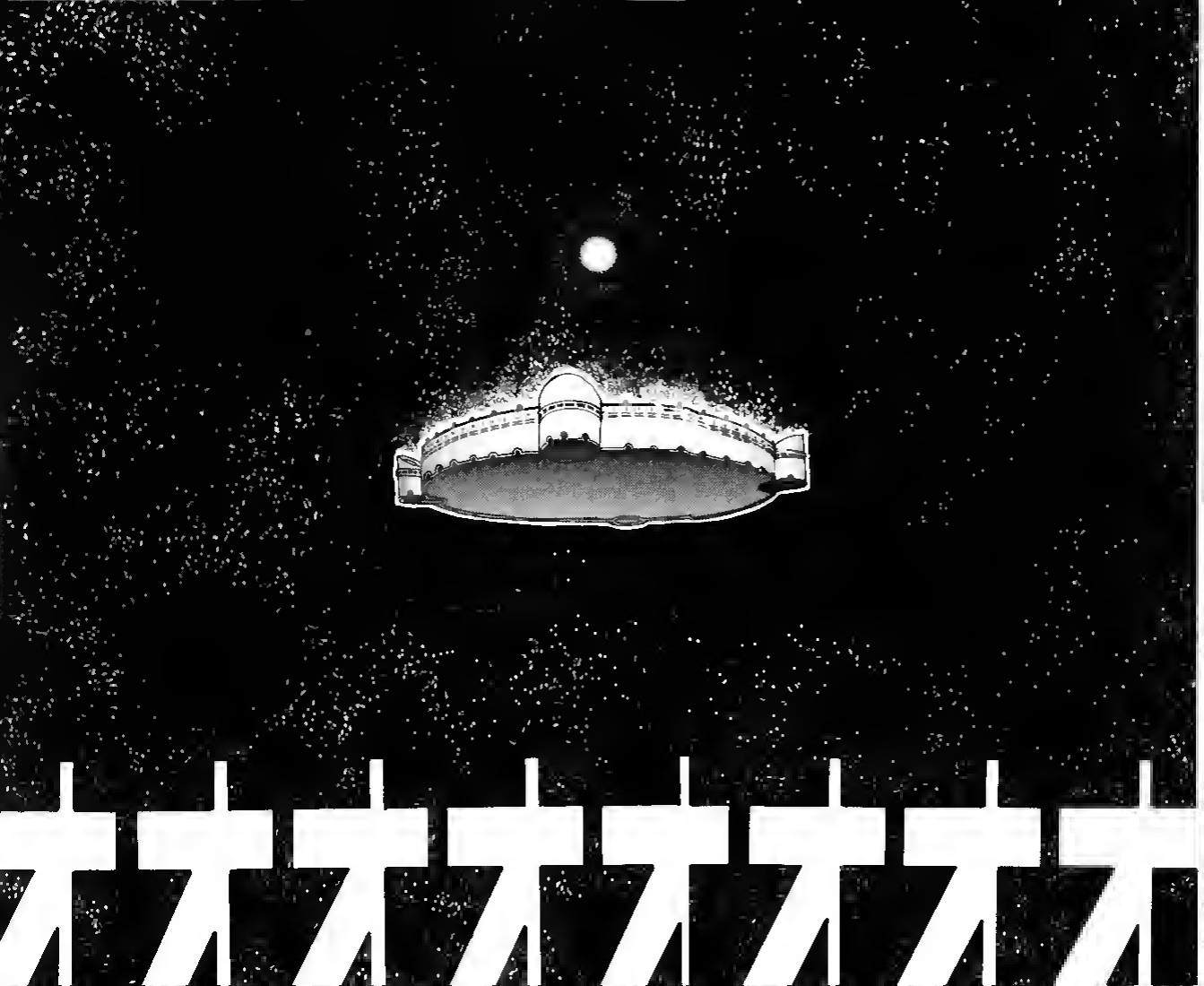

AH.
!
HEY.
I BOUGHT IT BACK.
YOU GUYS STILL HERE?
ピリピリピリピリピリピリピリ

WAIT.
WHA!?
STRANGE. WHEN THE COMPETITION STARTS, ALL NON-PARTICIPANTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN REMOVED
DID THE GM'S MESS UP THE SETTINGS?
WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE?
I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU THE SAME THING!
WHA... WHA... WHY DID YOU...
I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO A PK LIKE YOU!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE ANY IDEA
AND WHY DID YOUR ATTITUDE CHANGE SO SUDDENLY
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THE HECK YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

PK?
HERE IN PARABELAM, YOU MEAN
I MEAN THE JERKS WHO GO AROUND KILLING OTHER PC'S!
PLAYER KILLERS! WHY ARE ALL THE GUYS IN BLACK HERE PKS?
ISN'T THAT WEIRD?
IT'S NOT JUST THE BLACKS
THE WHITE CLAN PLAYERS ARE ALL PK'S TOO
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME HERE, BUT I KNOW THE RULES VERY WELL
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, HOW DID YOU EVEN ACCESS PARABELAM WITHOUT KNOWING THE RULES?
!
HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE YOU KILLED?
5? 10?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT?
MAYBE YOU'D HAVE TO KILL HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE?
I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN THAT MANY UP TO NOW
BUT IN HERE
DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S YOU OR ANYONE ELSE

HOW CAN YOU JUST KILL THAT MANY PEOPLE?
WHY?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
FIND SOME-WHERE WITHOUT ANY PC'S
THEN LOGOUT FROM THIS PLACE
UNFORTU-NATELY, YOU CAN'T DISCONNECT NOW.
YOU CAN'T EVEN LEAVE THE CITY
I CAME HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE THIS THING
SEE WHAT?
TURN AROUND

17
!?
THE WHOLE CITY IS NOW CUT OFF FROM THE OTHER AREAS.
THAT'S THE SETTING HERE IN PARABELAM.
BECAUSE THE COMPETITION HAS STARTED.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EH?
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY THE LOOK?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT!?
THE COMPE-TITION
ALREADY STARTED!
HUH? REALLY?
HEY
YOU GOT PLACED INTO WHITE CLAN, NO?
AND STILL YOU CAME BACK HERE?
I ALREADY TOLD YOU TO LEAVE
DIDN'T THINK YOU'D WASTE THAT MUCH TIME

HA HA
どっ!!
わはは
はは
YOU'RE SO USELESS
YOU'RE
YOU'RE SUCH A CLUELESS IDIOT.
ALWAYS SUCH A SLOWPOKE
I BET YOU EVEN 'COME' SLOWER THAN NORMAL PEOPLE.
HA!
I GOT THE BULLETS
YOU GUYS WANTED
OH
YEAH

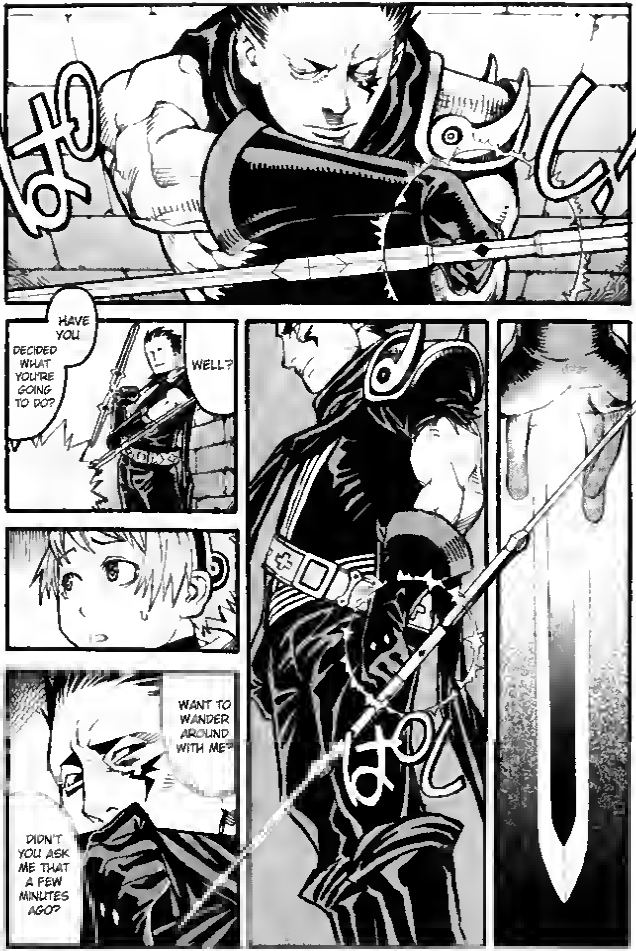
ズルル…ウゥゥゥ…
THAT'S …
THE COMPETITION. THERE'S TWO WAYS TO GET OUT OF THIS CITY NOW.
WHAT'S …
THAT NOISE …
OR …
YOU CAN TRY TO STAY ALIVE FOR HALF AN HOUR, AT WHICH POINT THE COMPETITION ENDS.

DON'T BLAME US, MAN
BLAME YOUR BAD LUCK
JUST WAIT, YOU BASTARDS
FEEL FREE TO BITCH
IF YOU WANT THOUGH
THAT WAS CRUEL OF YOU GUYS
JUST WAIT
EH!?
JUST TWICE
I'VE ACTUALLY GOTTEN KILLED 3 TIMES, SO I STILL OWE HIM ONE MORE...
HOW MANY TIMES HAS THIS GUY GOTTEN KILLED?
..THERE'S AN EVEN EASIER WAY
3 TIMES?
THEN I'M GUESSING YOUR LEVEL THE LOWEST RIGHT NOW, HUH?
JUST DIE, NO MATTER HOW. YOU CAN LEAVE ONCE YOU'RE DEAD

!?
WHAT THE... WHITE CLAN?
JUST ONE OF THEM?
THIS IS THE MIDDLE OF OUR TERRITORY!
ANOTHER IDIOT?
20 SECONDS?
THEN WE BLAST THROUGH THE WALL.
HOW LONG SHOULD WE WAIT?
MESSAGE.
NO GOOD.
I CAN'T CONTACT THAT GUYS UP TOP.
YOU GO CHECK IT OUT.
WELL?
NOTHING.
HE'S STILL HIDING BEHIND THE WALL.

HAVE WE GOT ANOTHER CARELESS IDIOT
OR...
!?

!!!
?
WHA...
WHAT?


HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO?
WELL?
WANT TO WANDER AROUND WITH ME?
DIDN'T YOU ASK ME THAT A FEW MINUTES AGO?

IDIOT
YOU WANT TO DIE?
NO...
MAYBE THAT'S BETTER
YOU CAN LOGOUT AFTER YOU DIE
HEY!
YOU'RE ANGRY
WHY'RE YOU ANGRY?
BUT SHE'S JUST GOING FOWARD
AND IT LOOKS LIKE...
たたた
たたたた

たたたたた
NO ONE?
NO THAT'S NOT IT.
THEY'RE JUST HIDING TO GET READY.
ズッズッズッ
WHY DO WE HAVE TO FIGHT?
!

WH... WHAT?
!?
HE VA-NISHED!

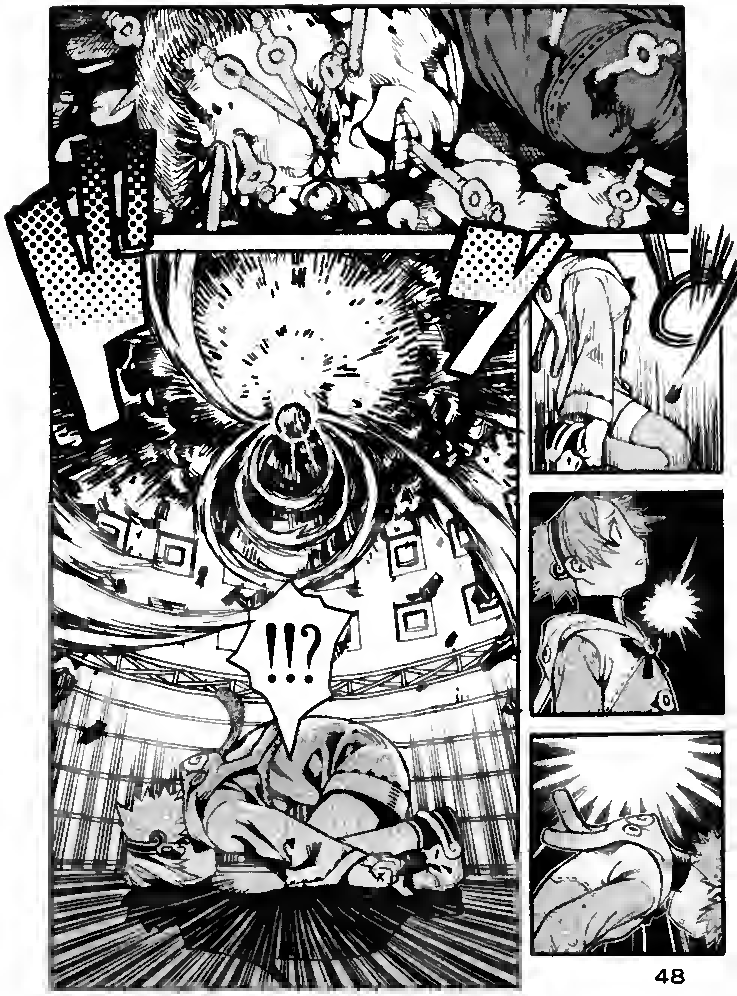
ガラ
!?
OOOH
HEY ARE YOU
OKAY?
YOU?
?
ONE OF OURS... YOU'RE NOT
WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW?
HOW D YOU GET SO HURT?
!?
WHAT....
ガラ
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHY IS SOMEONE LIKE YOU HERE THEN?

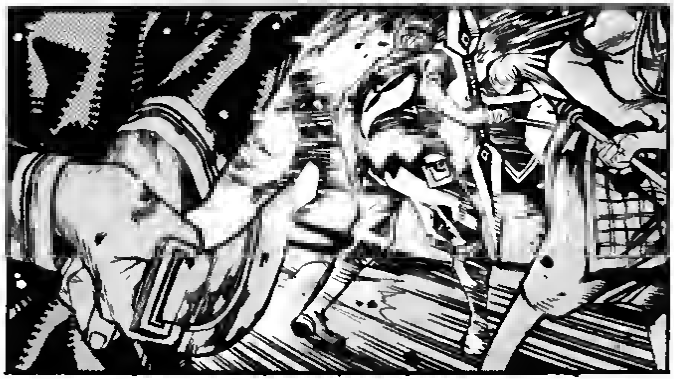
LET'S WAIT TILL EVERYONE IS HEALED TO TALK
THAT GUY IS REALLY HURT TOO
I'LL GET SOME HEALING ITEMS
I'M ACTUALLY A SHOPKEEPER

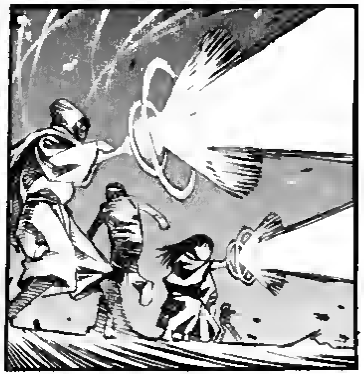
SO DO COME SHOP AGAI..
I'LL GIVE YOU MY CONTACT INFORMATION LATER...
AAAH!
AAAAAH!
AAAH!
AAAAAAAAAH!

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!
!!

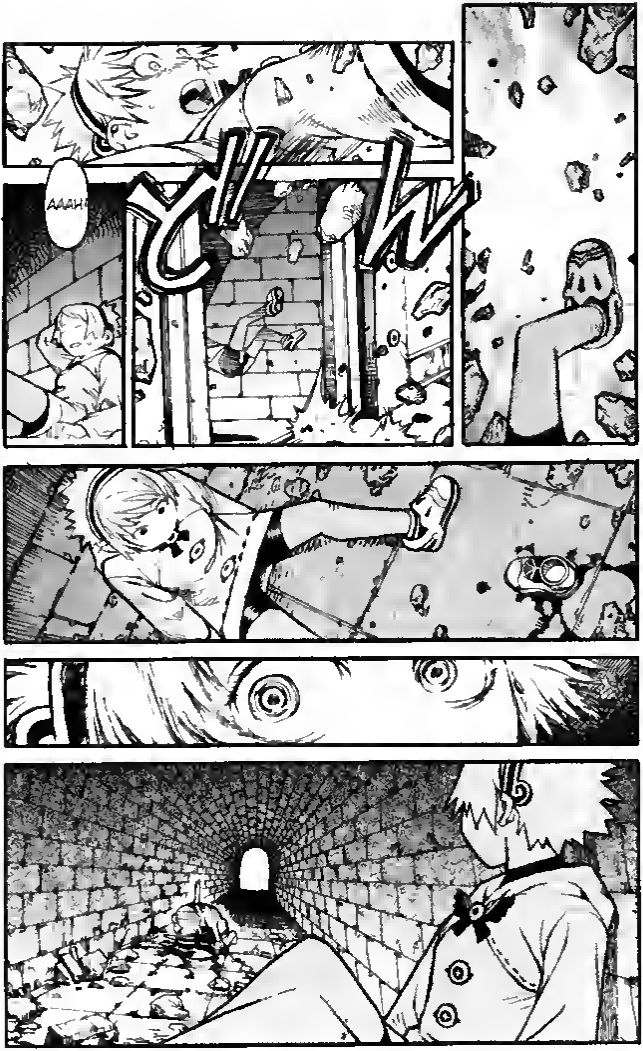
ドキッ
!?
ドカ!!







OVER THERE! THE BALCONY UP THERE, 2 O'CLOCK!
THERE ARE THREE MAGES UP THERE
IF WE BUNCH UP TOGETHER, WE'RE JUST GOING TO GET HIT BY AREA EFFECT SPELLS!
EVERYONE, SPREAD OUT!
TAKE THEM OUT BEFORE THEY FINISH THEIR NEXT SPELL!
CHARGE!
ATTACK!
!?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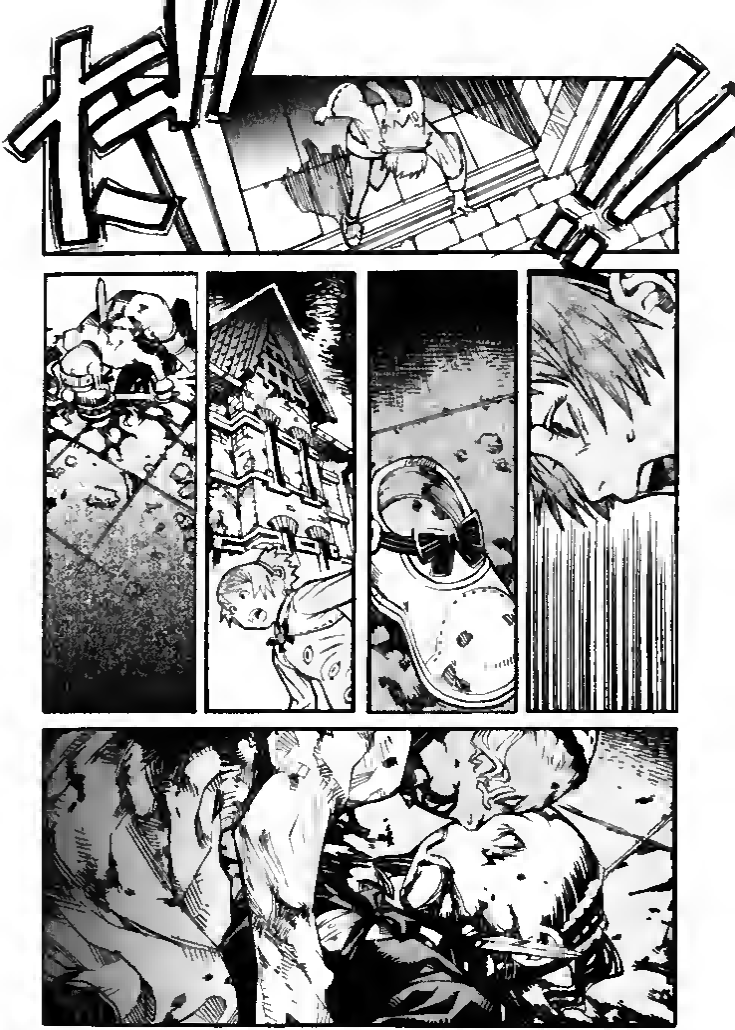
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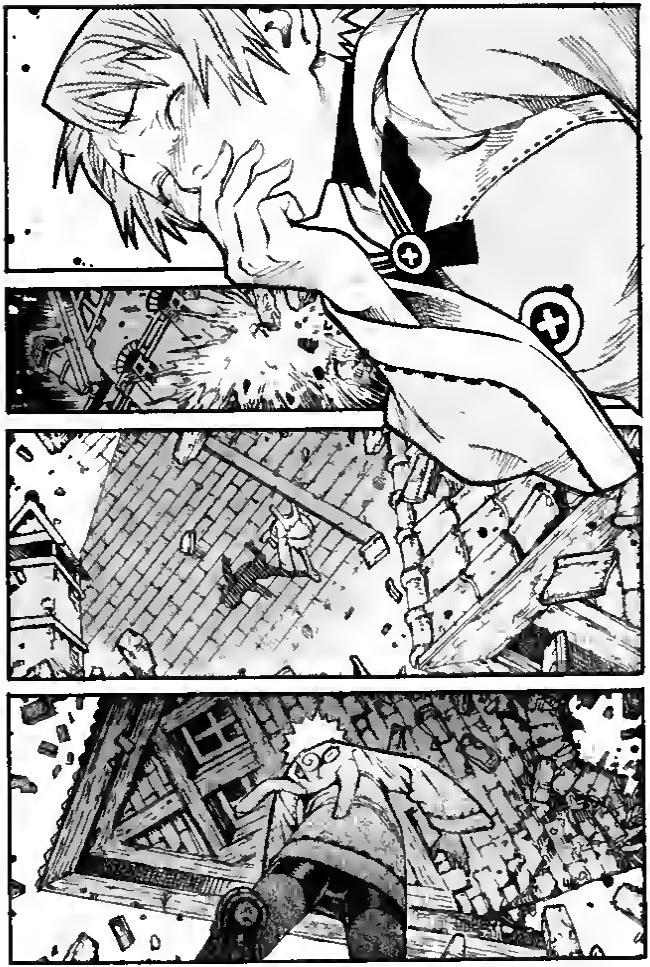
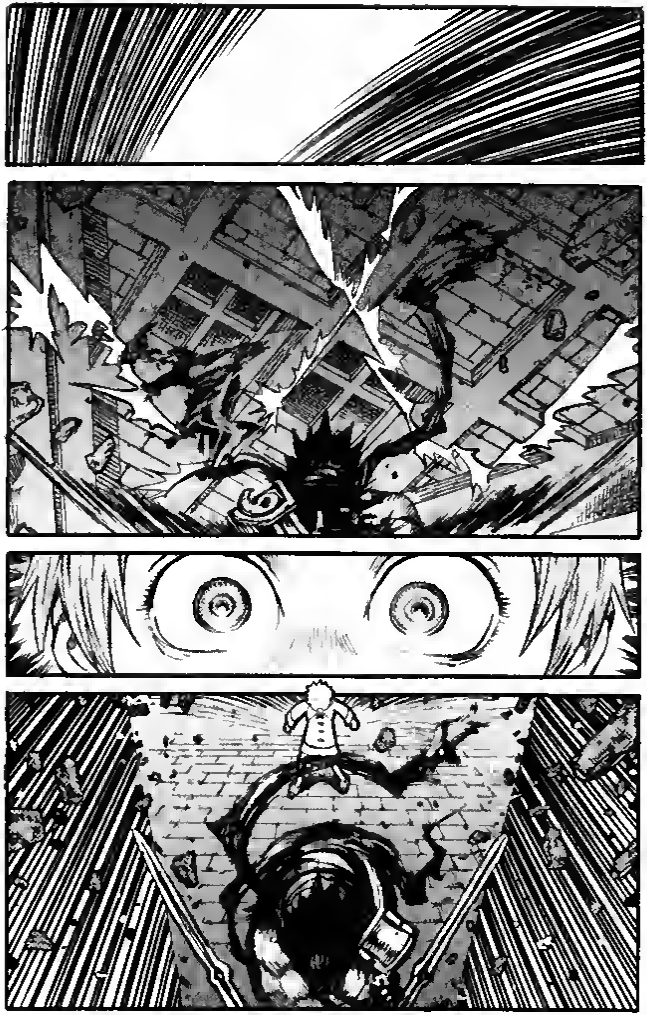
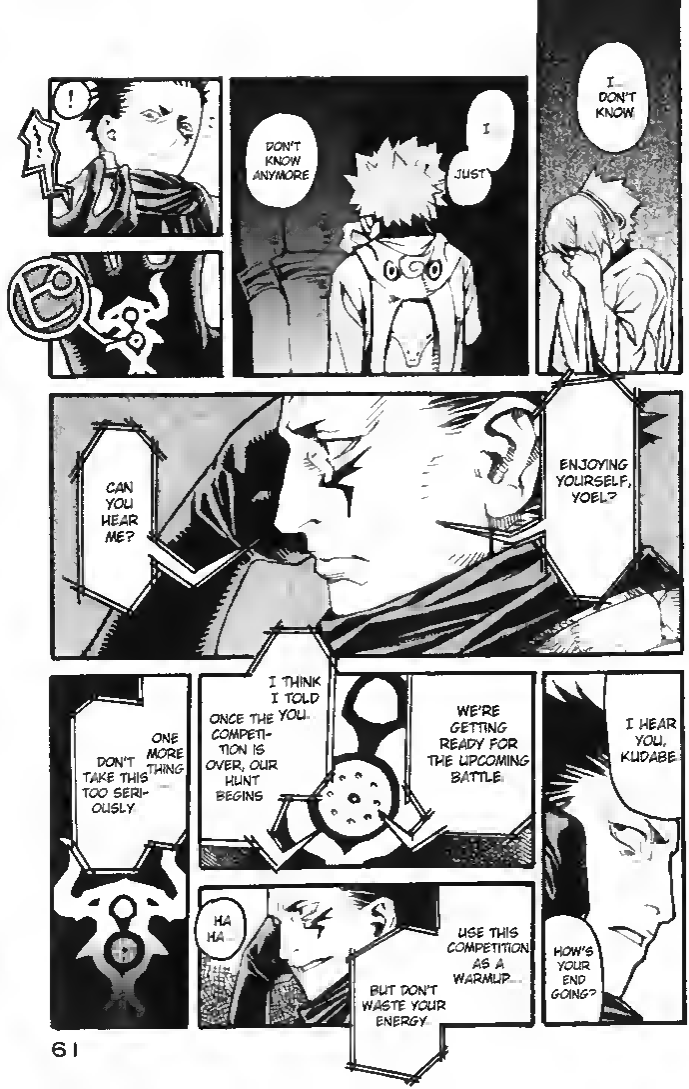




AAAAAH!

THA... THAT MAN REA... H... HE'S REALLY S... STRONG
H... HEH
NO...
LOGOUT! LOGOUT!
NO NO
NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO
I WANT TO GO BACK!
I DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE, ON THIS BOARD!
ぽかぽかぽかぽか...ぽかぽか
IF YOU WANT TO, JUST KILL ME ALREADY!
ぽかぽかぽかぽかぽかぽかぽかぽか

YOU WANT TO DIE?
HUH..
THEN...
IF YOU DON'T MIND LOSING YOUR LEVEL, STATS, AND CASH.
YOU CAN JUST LEAVE.
WHICH IS BETTER?
YOU DECIDE.


!
!!
I DON'T KNOW
I JUST
DON'T KNOW ANYMORE
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
ENJOYING YOURSELF, YOEL?
I HEAR YOU, KUDABE
HOW'S YOUR END GOING?
WE'RE GETTING READY FOR THE UPCOMING BATTLE
I THINK I TOLD YOU. ONCE THE COMPETITION IS OVER, OUR HUNT BEGINS
ONE MORE THING... DON'T TAKE THIS TOO SERIOUSLY
HA HA...
USE THIS COMPETITION AS A WARMUP...
BUT DON'T WASTE YOUR ENERGY

YOUR JOB HERE IS JUST TO INVESTIGATE. NOT TO MAKE YOURSELF FAMOUS.
EVEN IF YOU FIGHT AND RAISE IN RANKS, TRY NOT TO BE TOO NOTICABLE.
AND DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO ANYONE, OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE.
IF IT DOESN'T ADVANCE KUDABE'S PLAN, DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME.
THAT'S ALL
OVER AND OUT
THIS INCLUES BOTHERSOME THINGS LIKE HELPING PEOPLE
REMEMBER!
HEY
I'M GOING TO GO NOW ARE YOU GOING TO FOLLOW ME?
DECIDE

RIGHT NOW...
!?
ドドド
わわわ

AH!
AH!
AH!
AH!
AH!
AH!
AH!
AH!
AH!
ち,

C... CAN YOU HEAR ME?
G-
GIN!
LET THEM GO?
WHY THE SPECIAL TREATMENT?
THEY AV... AVOIDING BATTLE RIGHT NOW
JUST RUNNING AND HI... HIDING
S... SO, DON'T ATTACK TH... THEM
BRO-THER?
WHAT IS IT?
RI... RIGHT NOW THERE'S 2 PC'S HEADING TOWARDS YOUR POSITION
ONE OF TH... THEM IS A KID
THE OTHE... OTHER IS A BLACK CLAN'S SWORDS... SWORDSMAN WITH TWIN SWORDS
OF ALL THE PE... PEOPLE I'VE SEEN
TH... THAT GUY IS THE STRON-GEST!
VERY STRONG
TH... THAT PC...
IS STRONG

I WANT TO..
KILL HIM!
I WANT TO BE... BEAT THAT GUY.
I... I...
SO, WHEN YOU TELL ME NOT TO ATTACK... IS THAT A WARNING, OR
N-NO
BE... BEFORE I GET THERE YOU DO... DON'T ATTACK
VERY QUICKLY!
AF... AFTER I TAKE CARE OF THE... GUYS HERE I'LL HEAD OVER.
SO SOON. VERY SOON.
TH-THAT GUY IS
MY... MY
LET HIM GET AWAY
I... I WON'T

PREY!